BPL families in Assam

1600. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the families living below poverty line have so far been identified in Assam for coverage under the Centrally-sponsored schemes like Antyodaya Anna Yojana etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been carried out to find out the purchasing capacity; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) State Government of Assam have identified and issued distinctive ration cards to all the 2.81 lakh Antyodaya families in the State.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Sugar scandal in Maharashtra

1601. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sugar scandal in Maharashtra as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated the 11th December, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since when this had been going on and whether the Central Excise Department has been asked to investigate the matter;

(d) if so, the loss incurred to the exchequer; and